Permission to Multinational Companies for Manufacture and Distribution of Soft Drinks

479. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of multinational companies allowed to manufacture and distribute soft drinks in India;

(b) their annual turn-over;

(c) the terms and conditions of these companies to manufacture and distribute soft drinks in India;

(d) whether these terms and conditions have been honoured by these multinational companies; and

(e) if not, the action taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no accepted definition of multi-national company. However, for practical purposes, a company having more than 40% Non-Resident interest (Popularly known as a FERA Company) is treated as a Multinational Company. Presently no multinational company is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of soft drinks in India.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Funds Provided by KVIC to Sericulture Producers

480. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to make Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) a more responsible and people oriented organisation to meet its commitments to the growing demand of the millions of poor sericulture producers;

(b) the funds in the form of working capital provided by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to the institutions and Boards for procuring their raw materials from existing cocoon and yarn markets which could be classified under the public/private sector/private sector lending programme or both; and

(c) the details of such institutions/Boards with their addresses, financial position, business progress and commitments to the producers particularly in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) Sericulture is essentially an activity under the purview of State Govt. However, KVIC has a khadi silk programme which covers 7% of the total silk sector. The KVIC is making continuous efforts at modernising and developing this industry. It has introduced improved cottage basins in reeling of cocoons, conducting experiments for spinning of yarn on Ambar charkha and introducing semi-automatic loom.

(b) During 1989-90 the KVIC has provided working capital funds of Rs. 47.12 lakhs from its budget and Rs. 731.05 lakhs from its bank finance scheme at a concessional rate of interest of 4% to the directly assisted institutions and State KVI Boards. There is no yarn market as such in the silk khadi sector as the yarn produced by these institutions is meant for self consumption to produce silk khadi.

(c) There are about 450 directly aided institutions under silk programme of KVIC in the country.

[*Translation*]

Import of Colour TV Picture Tubes

481. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether colour TV picture tubes are being imported at present;